trade zone for garments and fabrics may be set up jointly by the European and American textile industries. However, no further details on this issue are available with the Government.

(c) Necessary steps to protect the interests of India's Textile exports would be considered at the appropriate time.

Environment Norms to be followed while Exporting Textiles Items to Germany

612. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major part of the country's foreign exchange earnings from the European Community are from exports of apparel and textiles, particularly to Germany;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Textile exporters have now to conform to stiff environment forms se by German agencies; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose o take to ensure that textile exporters follow these norms and also continue to export textiles and apparel to the German market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No new environment norms have come into force in Germany with regard to export of Textiles from India.

Share of cotton in Global Textile Market

613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Joint Export Group Comprising of major cotton producing nations has agreed to enhance the share of cotton in global textile market and to vastly improve market accesses;

(b) if so, what are the countries which are represented in the Export Group; and

(c) to what extent the formation of Export Group has helped all the cotton producing nations including India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) he International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) which is an association of 44 Governments of Cotton producing and consuming countries held its 52nd Plenary Meeting in October, 1993 in New Delhi. One of the decisions was to develop a project proposal for Common Fund Financing for an expor- recommend a practicial way of implementing programmes which would enhance the share of cotton in global textile market.

Cotton Textile Exporters

614. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export potenital for cotton textiles;

(b) what are the main constraints which inhibit the growth of cotton exports.;

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance cotton textile exports;

(d) what are the details of structural infirmities that are hindering the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) For 1993-94 a target of US dollar 1797.88 million has been

fixed for export of Cotton Textiles from India. As our current export amounts to only a very small share of world trade in textiles, there is considerable potential. However, it is not possible to quantify the same, with any certainty.

(b) to (d) The major constraints inhibiting growth of our cotton textile exports include quota restrictions imposed by major importing countries, stiff competition from other major exporting countries, etc. Obsolete production technology employed in our cotton textile industry is one of the structural infirmities hindering the exports. Government have taken several steps to enhance cotton textile exports which include full convertibility of Rupees, allowing import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, participation in Buyer-Seller meets, fairs, exhibitions etc.

Policy on Cotton Exporters

615. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any policy on cotton exports; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are considering to announce a cotton export quota in the beginning of the crops season with a view to stabilise the prices the market; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the targets of cotton exports in the current cotton season and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY-: (a) Ministry of Textiles has already an export policy on cottton. 5 lakh bales of cotton are relesed at the beginning of the cotton season in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Export Strategy. Subsequent releases are made after making an assessment of the cotton demand and supply situation, exportable surplus etc.

(b) In the beginning of the cotton season Government has released a quota of 5.00 lakh bales of cotton for export. (4.00 lakh bales of staple cotton and 1.00 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton).

(c) There is no target for cotton exports. The export of cotton is allowed subject to the availability of exportable surplus of the cotton.

Production Export and Consumption of cloth in the country

616. SHRI JIBON BEHARI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of cloth during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and during the first six months of 1993-94 powerloom, handloom and mill section-wise in the country;

(b) what was the quantum of export of cloth out of the total production during the above periods together with the amount of cloth imported; and

(c) what was the total per capite cloth consumption in the country during the above periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Total production of cloth during 1991-92, 1992-93 and during the first six months of 1993-94 (Sector-wise) has been as under: